Havala Phone Racket

876. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "US firms in Rupees 1,000 crore havala phone racket" appearing in the "Financial Express", New Delhi dated the 2nd September, 1994;

(b) if so, the genesis of this havala phone racket;

(c) why it could not be detected in time by the Department of Telecommunications;

(d) the remedial measures which have been taken to check this racket resulting in serious loss of foreign exchange to the country; and

(e) whether any investigation had been ordered to fix responsibility on the Departmental officials involved in this racket; if so, what and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, Governments' attention has been drawn to the news item.

(b) to (e) The matter is under examination and the details of findings as well as the action taken will be laid on the table of the House at the earliest.

Privatisation of postal services

877. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering privatising the postal services;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the privatisation programme of the post offices; and

(c) if not, what is the reason for not privatising the post offices when in many of the foreign and developed countries there are private postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to privatise Postal Services in the country. While in a number of countries, postal services have been corporatised, Government does not have any information about the postal services having been privatised in any country. Government have not taken any final view on the recommendation of the Post Office Act review Committee to partially relax existing exclusive privilege of the Central Government to carry letters.

C-DOT Technology

878. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 18000 telecom exchanges spread over the country, around 14500 have C-DOT technology;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for sudden idling of the facilities by Government through denial of orders and

(c) whether the C-DOT is being discriminated in the new Telecom Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM):(a) Sir, the total number of telephone exchanges in the country is about 19000, out of which about 9860 are of C-DOT technology.

(b) There is no denial of orders by the Government and the orders are being placed as per the plan objectives. However, it may be mentioned that, probably the total manufacturing capacity is more than the demand.

(c) No, Sir.

Resources for basic Telephone services

879. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic telcom services in the country;

(b) what is the projected resource requirements to fulfil the 8th Plan targets of providing basic telecom services to the Indian People;

(c) what is the projected shortfall in meeting such resources requirtment through the budgetary support;

(d) whether the alternative of floating issues in the market is being considered by Government to meet these requirements;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Following are generally considered as basic telecom services:

(i) Telephone Service: Local and Long Distance

(ii) Telegraph Service

(iii) Telex Service

(iv) Switched Data Communication (Real Time)

(v) Leased Line Service.

(b) The projected resource requirement is Rs. 40,455 crores.

(c) The approved 8th Plan outlay is Rs. 23,946 crores. At the mid-term review stage, this has been proposed to be raised to Rs. 33,733 crores. The balance is planned to be funded through alternative modes of financing, like leasing etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

(f) Being a Government Department it cannot float public issues in the market.

Tariff structure for telecom service

880. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the tariff structure for different telecom services provided in the different countries of the European Union, East Asia and Pacific countries, USA, Japan and some other notable developing countries where the giant telecom MNCs are offering services enjoying a monopoly status; and

(b) what are the implications of these tariff structure in our future tariff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM):(a) and (b) The information is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Awarding of Telephone Lines tenders

881. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DOT has finally awarded 1.7 million tele